

Research Plan for Excellence: Opportunity Fund Request for Proposals November 23, 2021

PURPOSE

Wake Forest School of Medicine, as the Academic Core of Atrium Health, is responsible for the deployment of an Academic Enrichment Fund to recruit faculty who will enhance the scientific capabilities of the Enterprise. We seek your input on best strategies for research expansion using a \$22M Opportunity Fund. We invite faculty colleagues from across the Enterprise to submit proposals that will fill gaps and expand capabilities through the recruitment of research-focused faculty and teams. These proposals should seek to further our ability to become a next generation Academic Learning Health System with a goal of integrating discovery into care of our patients and communities.

As described in the research strategic plan, recruitments will focus on improving the Enterprise's ability to translate findings into care and improve national reputation through extramural funding with significant consideration of 1) Health equity, diversity, & inclusion; 2) Lifespan Research - from childhood to older adult populations; and 3) building a deep and diverse research portfolio across the translational spectrum (e.g., basic, clinical, and population science). This effort seeks to expand our current research strength to enhance Wake Forest School of Medicine and Atrium Health's national research presence. The primary use of these funds will be to recruit faculty who will contribute to expansion of our Enterprise research. These funds are not intended to support internal infrastructure or capital expenses for existing research teams.

We have already formed teams of colleagues to identify gaps and opportunities for growth in the research focus areas identified in the research plan for excellence. This Request for Proposals (RFP) specifically provides an opportunity to identify strategies for research expansion that may include, but are not limited to the identified research focus areas.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS

The proposal submission and review will involve a 2-step process:

Step 1

- **Letter of Intent:** Faculty colleagues interested in submitting proposals for the Opportunity Fund will submit a 2-page Letter of Intent (see instructions below). Letters of Intent will be reviewed by Enterprise Research Leadership, who will provide feedback and invite participation in the next stage.

Step 2

- **Full Proposals and Presentations:** Following the LOI review process, faculty colleagues will be invited to 1) submit a written proposal and 2) prepare a brief presentation outlining the proposal, its potential benefits, and costs. The presentations and proposals will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary panel of faculty reviewers. These

individuals will conduct a peer review and the most meritorious proposals will be selected for funding during this current cycle.

RFP TIMELINE

LOI Due Date: The two-page letters of Intent are due by 5PM ET on Thursday, December 16, 2021. Send all completed letters of intent to Chris O'Byrne at cobyrne@wakehealth.edu.

LOI Instructions:

Letters of Intent require the following:

- A brief abstract of recruitment proposal
- A clear statement of how this recruitment proposal will fill a gap or capitalize on an existing strength and further our ability to become a next generation Academic Learning Health System
- Estimated cost of the proposed plan
- A list of individuals and groups who would benefit from and collaborate with the recruit(s)

NOTE: Specific details the next stage in the process (proposal and presentation) will be provided at the completion of LOI review.

We look forward to receiving your letter of intent. This Opportunity Fund Request for Proposals process was purposely designed to be more open ended in an effort to encourage all creative aspirational ideas to be evaluated. Our goal is to initiate these recruitment efforts in the spring of 2022.

Please feel free to send any question to Chris O'Byrne (cobyrne@wakehealth.edu).